

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 23, 2000 LB 1115

them from making their own exceptions that they might choose to make. So, if this is going to go forward, I'm going to offer an amendment to strike that part of the amendment. I think we're taking on, creating problems that we don't...we don't really need to do in order to do what Senator Thompson indicated in her opening she really wanted to do, and that is to create this ten-foot area outside of state buildings that are smoke free. So I offer that for your consideration. Thanks.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Those wishing to speak to the amendment are Senators Price, Wickersham, Beutler, Jensen, and Senator Lynch. Senator Price.

SENATOR PRICE: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, when it comes to smoking, for me there is no compromise, and if I had my way it wouldn't be 10 feet from the door, it'd be 100 or 1,000, even over in the parking lot, and I think that might cause a lot of people to decide that is it worth it to smoke, but that's a pretty tough decision, one we won't handle. But I have an office on the south side of the building and I hold my breath when I come in because...and then you come in that little holding area there and it's full of smoke. You continue to hold your breath, you walk down the hall and then you go around the corner and then you can finally exhale. But, again, it's gone into my office. So, anyhow, it's kind of like do I come in the east door and...and have less suffering? But I am very supportive of increasing and increasing and increasing the distance of smoking. It's hazardous to the smoker's health and second-hand smoking is very hazardous to our health. Please do support the amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Price. Senator Wickersham, on the Thompson amendment.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, members of the body, it...it's...this is a difficult issue to resolve and I want to make a confession. I have felt sorry for the folks that I've seen huddled around the doors with their parkas, their umbrellas, and they're out there in all kinds of weather trying to indulge in a habit that I don't share and don't think they should indulge themselves in but they do, and I would...I will, frankly, confess that I felt sorry for them. And I haven't